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A REPUBLICAN PLATFORM.

While the next national election is two years away, there already is talk that by that time there will be a demand to return republicans to power. While republicans have given every reasonable aid to the administration in putting over its relief programs, there are growing indications that, despite a considerable recovery, there will be two years hence the usual criticism and dissatisfaction with those who are in and a demand to return those who are out.

None of this means, however, that the republicans are going to withdraw any support from necessary relief programs.

If the republicans are to be returned to power, they must present some kind of a program of what they propose to do. Many have believed that they would find it difficult to outline such a program, at least one that would stand up alongside that of their opponents during four years of power.

As a matter of fact, much that has been put into effect during the past two years had been proposed before there was a change in administrations and had been before congress, having failed because of lack of support such as has been given President Roosevelt by members of all parties, and now comes Congressman James W. Mott of this congressional district and proposes a program which shows that republicans need not lack for a sound platform upon which to make a campaign. It is as follows:

"First. The spread of employment in private industry by shortening hours of labor to whatever extent may be necessary to re-employ all who are able to do the work required by modern industry.

"Second. Federal aid to private industry to enable it to make the necessary change from the old system of long hours and low wages to a new system of shorter hours and higher wages.

"Third. Assurance to employers that in operating business and industry with increased employment they will have a fair opportunity of receiving a reasonable return on their legitimately and usefully invested capital, and assurance to employes that they shall receive wages sufficient to give them not only a mere living but a purchasing power wherewith to buy back the products of industry.

"Fourth. Unemployment insurance to protect the employe in temporary emergency.

"Fifth. An old-age pension sufficient to retire, in decency and comfort, those who have passed the age of their economic usefulness and to remove them from competition with those who have not reached that age.

"Sixth. A comprehensive and uniform system of farm-mortgage refinancing at a rate of interest which the farmer can afford to pay and in an amount sufficient to liquidate his existing mortgages.

"Seventh. Assurance to the farmer of at least the cost of production plus a reasonable profit on that part of his commodity actually sold and consumed in this country.

"Eighth. Adequate tariff protection against all foreign commodities sold in this country in competition with our own, and in cases where tariffs do not afford such protection, then we insist upon resort either to quotas or embargos or both.

"Ninth. Stabilization of the currency through definite legislation enactment and not through decrees issued in the discretion of the chief executive.

"Tenth. Return of all federal legislative power to congress, and resumption by congress of the duties imposed on it by the constitution."

Between 1920 and 1930 persons in this country over 75 years of age increased by 500,000.

STUDENT FEES.

The senate already has passed the Wheeler bill providing for compulsory fees at the state's institutions of higher learning for student body activities. The fee would become compulsory, however, only by action of the state board of higher education.

The Sentinel frequently has said that education is being made to cost so much that it is being put beyond the reach of the poor boy and girl. It is so high that many parents of moderate means can not stretch the family purse strings far enough to get their children through college, while in these days finding jobs to pay one's way through is extremely difficult.

This student body fee would be only \$15 a year, but \$15 a year is a lot of money to students and parents who are scrimping to provide money for necessities. These student body fees give the student admission to all student body activities, including football and all athletic activities. However, the larger part of the fees is to support activities that could be omitted without taking away anything that is necessary to education, and the student who feels that he would prefer to omit these things from college life should have that privilege.

Every year it becomes more and more necessary for a student to be a member of a sorority or fraternity. The first thing asked about a new student is what sorority or fraternity did he make. Possibly the houses perform a function, but there are a lot of other things that could be added to college life that would be desirable if students could afford them, or it might be more to the point to say, if their parents could afford them. Sororities and fraternities could be taken out of college life without taking anything necessary to the education of the student, and something that is not necessary to the purpose of a college should be subordinated instead of made the main object of college life.

Many students have been unable to complete college because of the expense of things that are not needed so far as education itself is concerned. Life at our institutions of higher learning should be made so that a student could omit these things without being made to feel that he is inferior to those who have everything that money can buy.

If the Wheeler bill should pass the legislature and become law, the state board should refuse to make it operative.

Another ice age, due in 20,000 years, can already be felt, a lecturer told a New York audience. That must have been what it was that hit Kansas and Nebraska last summer.

O. M. KEM REPLIES.

Mr. Editor: I am indeed pleased to note that you wish to be convinced that the Townsend plan will work, and I undertake the task with alacrity and great hope of success because it is much easier to convince one who wants to be convinced than one who does not.

You seem to still harbor the fear that the hoarder will hide away the revolving fund and in a short time there will be no money in circulation with which to do business. This reminds me of the little boy who became obsessed of the fear that there were bears under the bed and, when his mother assured him there were no bears so located, he responded, "I know there ain't but I've afeared there is." I think you are just afraid the hoarding bear is under the business bed, awaiting an opportunity to destroy it. If there is any logical reason for this belief, I have been unable to discover it. Every element of the principle involved indicates to me just the opposite.

I can think of but two kinds of hoarders, one is the born miser who can no more resist the temptation to hoard than he can resist breathing. This kind is too few to be worth consideration. The other kind is the timid business man who is a good business man as long as things are running smoothly, but the moment the business tide becomes a little rough he puts his money where he thinks it more safe than in business. This is the great weakness in our present financial system. It has gone haywire so often, business is more or less leary of it at all times, and jumps to cover on the slightest provocation.

In answer to your question as to how the second man getting the pension money will be prevented from hoarding his profits, I do not believe there will be need

of prevention. This is because the most simple-minded business man certainly knows that so long as the revolving fund continues to turn it will not only build up a tremendous business of its own but will aid and stabilize all other business as well. Because of this it will place all business on a foundation so superior to any that business has ever had in the past it would be so absolutely impregnable to all assaults that nothing could stop it except hoarding and inasmuch as there would be no incentive to hoard, it is not an important element of the problem.

However, if it be true that enough hoarders could and would develop to where they could and would hide away enough money to reduce business to the point where the pension fund could not be maintained, of course that would be the end, and demonstrate the fact that we are so assinine in our business operations that even the Almighty can't save us from ourselves. However, let me add that there is another very potent reason for no hoarding. There would be no reason whatever to hoard for old age because, at the age of 60, the need of all would be provided for. No, Mr. Editor, I don't think you could find a bear under the bed with a searchlight.

In answer to your query as to my computation of the income tax, will say that it was based on figures used by the Oregonian in commenting on the Roosevelt pauper pension plan, which includes no one in its benefits below the age of 65. I overlooked the fact that married persons have an exemption of \$1,500, and computed amount of tax on a basis of \$800 exemption.

However, inasmuch as this computation was based also on the number of people in the state of 65 years and over, and inasmuch as this computation brought the total tax to considerably more than two million dollars, and inasmuch as the Townsend plan includes all persons of 60 years and over, I believe that the amount above \$2,000,000, and the additional amount that would be collected from the greater number of the Townsend pensioners, would, approximately make up the shortage

resulting from my failure to include the \$1,500 exemptions in my estimate.

Believing that down deep in your anatomy you know that there

are no bars under that thar bed, I hope you may soon be relieved of that uncanny feeling that "you're afeared there is."

O. M. KEM



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